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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 006544

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DEPT ENERGY FOR JHANNA, JHIDALGO, BSHORTER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ENRG](#) [KNNP](#) [OTRA](#) [TRGY](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: TURKEY COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED FOR DOE/NNSA
HULSE +2 (DEC 7 - 18 2006)

REF: STATE 192001

¶1. Embassy Ankara grants country clearance to DOE/NNSA
Representatives Scott Hulse, Ronald Hansen and Christopher
Joines, who will travel to Adana in support of Department of
Defense PRISM Flame training from December 7 to 18, 2006.

¶2. Embassy Control Officer is Kevin Lyon who can be contacted
via the IVG 295-2525 or Commercial (90)(312)455-5555 ext.2525
or through Embassy switchboard ext 0.

¶3. Local contact information and lodging arrangements will
be provided via separate correspondence.

¶4. Visas: All Americans entering Turkey must have a valid
visa. Travelers without a visa can obtain a visa (valid for
one entry for three months at ports of entry upon payment of
a USD 20 fee payable in cash). There is no fee for official
travel if the visa is obtained outside of Turkey.

¶5. Health Safety: Information on vaccinations and other
health precautions can be obtained from the Center for
Disease Control and Prevention. The hotline for
international travelers (tel: 1- 877-394-8747), fax:
1-800-cdc-fax(1-800-232-3299), or via their internet site at:
<HTTP://WWW.CSC.GO>.

¶6. Security Assessment: In light of ongoing military
operations in Iraq and continued operations in support of the
war on terrorism there remains the potential for both
transnational terrorist groups with anti-Western sympathies,
to include Kongra Gel (formerly PKK), Revolutionary People's
Liberation/Front (DHKP/C), Marxist-Leninist Communist Party
(MLKP) Turkish Communist Party/Marxist Leninist (TKP/ML),
Turkish Workers and Peasants Revolutionary Army (TIKKO) and
Islamic Greater Eastern Raiders/Front (IBDA/C) continue to
operate in Turkey. Attacks over the last few years,
attributed to these groups, have occurred in the Aegean and
Mediterranean coastal resort areas, as well as in Istanbul.
Most of the attacks, generally small-scale bombings, have
occurred in neighborhoods of Istanbul not generally
frequented by official Americans or tourists. Also in 2005
and 2006 public buses have been set on fire, with the most
recent incident resulting in three deaths. Thus far, these
attacks on buses also have taken place in areas of Istanbul
distant from official American or tourist destinations. A
Kurdish group, ostensibly aligned with the PKK terrorists,
claimed responsibility for many of the incidents noted above,
and in April 2006 this group issued a statement renewing a
threat to target Turkey's tourism industry.

Violent demonstrations have occurred throughout Turkey, the
most recent in Istanbul and in several cities in Southeastern

Turkey. Just as with members of Mission Turkey, USG visitors are required to obtain RSO Ankara and DCM approval for travel to the Southeast. Al-Qa'ida threats to target U.S. facilities in Turkey have been public knowledge for some time. On November 15, 2003 two synagogues in Istanbul were the targets of suicide truck bombs.

On November 20, 2003 the British Consulate General and the London based HSBC Bank in Istanbul were struck by powerful explosions, killing dozens and wounding hundreds. Through prosecutions of those responsible are still ongoing, indications are that the indigenous radical Islamic terrorist group responsible was supported by the Al-Qa'ida network. The August 2005 discovery in Antalya of a potential plot against maritime interests and subsequent arrest of a Syrian Al-Qa'ida facilitator and planner further attest to the ongoing transnational threat. The incidence of crime, both violent and the more traditional tourists crimes (pick pocketing, purse-snatching, etc.), is relatively low throughout Turkey. However, over the last year, there has been a marked increase in the number of crimes reported to Consulate General Istanbul. Much of the crime is centered in the areas frequented by tourists, Consulate employees and official visitors. Visitors should be particularly attentive for pick pockets in and around the Sultanahmet, Taksim Square, and Istiklal Caddesi areas of Istanbul. Often pick pocketing is preceded by some sort of diversion, such as an argument or fight, or children asking to assist tourists, for example with their bags. If you encounter such activity, secure your wallet or purse and quickly leave the area. Another scam that is becoming more prevalent is that of a stranger approaching a visitor and striking up a conversation which is continued inside a restaurant or club, where one is either drugged and robbed or presented with an enormous bill

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and intimidated into paying it. The security office encourages visitors to report any security incidents, including surveillance, to the RSO immediately.

Useful security information about Turkey is available on the following web-sites:

--Embassy Ankara: <HTTP://WWW.USEMB-ANKARA.ORG.TR> (Click on Security Matters)

--Consulate General Istanbul: <HTTP://WWW.USCONSULATE-ISTANBUL.ORG.TR>

17. For further information regarding travel in Turkey, consult the Consular information sheet. The Consular information sheet and public announcements are available on the internet at: <HTTP://TRAVEL.STATE.GOV>

Other information is available on the following websites:

--The State Department Consular Affairs (CA) website: <HTTP://WWW.TRAVEL.STATE.GOV/TURKEY.HTML>

--Turkish Daily News (English Language Turkish newspaper): <HTTP://WWW.TURKISHDAILYNEWS.COM>

--Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <HTTP://WWW.MFA.GOV.TR>

--The Republic of Turkey Home Page: <HTTP://WWW.TURKEY/INDEX.HTML>

--Weather for Turkey: <HTTP://WWW.WUNDERGROUND.COM/GLOBAL/TU.HTML>

Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

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